GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6848
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS AFFECTED DUE TO CHEMICAL PESTICIDES
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to exposure to chemical pesticides about 500 agricultural labourers have been fatally affected in the Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the similar cases have been reported from other States also;

(c) if so, whether the Government contemplate to conduct an in-depth health study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)to(d): As per the report from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, 51 cases ofpesticide poisoning involving 13 deaths due to exposure to pesticides have been reported during September and October, 2001. Some deaths due to pesticides poisoning have been reported from a few other States also.

The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968registers the pesticides only after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety to human being, animals and the environment. If the pesticides are used as per the prescribed directions, they do not pose any harm to human beings, animals and the environment. Further Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) toreduce consumption of chemical pesticides. Farmers are provided training on safe and judicious use of pesticides by organizing farmers field schools. Training is also imparted to medical doctors on diagnosis and effective management of pesticide poisoning cases. No in-depth health monitoring study is contemplated in this regard by the Ministry of Agriculture,